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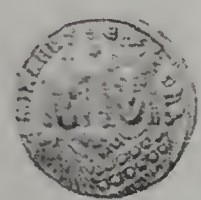
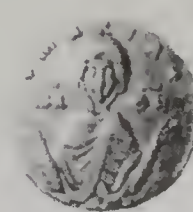
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION WOMEN IN NUMISMATICS

# winning ways





Charlemagne

## BYZANTINE: PART III

VOLUME 9 NO. 3

# WIN

**WOMEN IN NUMISMATICS**
**Organization Mailing Address:**
**Rita Jene Sledz-Secretary WIN**
**5175 Gloria**
**Wayne, MI 48784**
**734-721-4991**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Newsletter**

*WINNING WAYS* is a quarterly publication of Women In Numismatics. The acceptance of an ad (business or classified) does not constitute approval or endorsement by WIN. WIN claims no liability for content of business or classified ads. All ads are accepted on a space limited basis.

**Letters-to-the-Editor Policy**

Letters-to-the-Editor are welcome from both members and non-members and must include your name, address and phone number.
Letters will be published in *WINNING WAYS* as space and publication deadlines permit and are subject to Editorial discretion. Whenever a letter is addressing a specific problem that the Board can assist in resolving, it will be forwarded to the appropriate personnel.

**Feature Articles**

Articles, photos and features pertaining to the numismatic industry are welcome and are subject to editorial discretion and editing.

**New Publication Deadline Dates:**

February 15.....April issue
June 1.....August issue
October 1st.....January issue

**Mailing Address**

Please address your journal correspondence to:
Gloria E. Peters, Editor
14252 Culver Drive, A, #490
Irvine, CA 92604-0326
Phone: (949) 559-5797
Fax: (949) 559-0777
Email: gpeters409@aol.com

**Cindy Grellman**

# THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

**Dear Members and Friends:**

It was an honor for me to be inducted as your new WIN president during the Central States show in Minneapolis. I have always been proud to be a charter member and supporter of WIN. And, what a great board we have to work for you the next few years! I want to personally thank all of those who have given time to WIN in the past, but have decided to step down from their current positions. Those include Cindy Mohon, Gayle Pike, Sandy Gulde, Carolyn Graham, and Marlene Highfill. We welcome to the board Rita Jean Sledz, Don Charters, Jerry Morgan, Lorelei Lissor, and Rollie Finner. WIN has been and will continue to be in good hands with this great group of board members.

There always seems to be an "issue" that pops up when I travel to the various coin shows around the country. The current issue seems to be concern for a decline in coin shows and coin show attendance due to computers and internet access. Well, coin shows may have to "beef up" their advertising for awhile to combat this, but I can see huge potential for the opposite reaction. Maybe, just maybe, all of this world wide web access will bring many new collectors into the hobby. I can spend hundreds of hours on the computer looking at coins and auctions. But, if I don't attend coin shows and enjoy the friendships, conversations, and hands-on experience of coin collecting, I'm going to lose interest very quickly. There is NO substitute for the learning that occurs at a coin show. So, let's all continue to promote the hobby and encourage everyone to continue attending their local and national coin shows.

As I write this, I'm sitting at a desk in the dormitory at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Later today I have my first class at the ANA Summer Conference. I'll be learning about the "Twelve Caesars" from David Vagi and Kerry Wetterstrom. I'm also a "dorm mom" for a group of young numismatists from across the country, including Alaska and Hawaii. I just want to tell you all that I think the future of this hobby is just fine. We have 37 YN's out for the summer conference this year, and they're a great group of numismatists. I'm sure there will be some human interest stories to tell by the end of the week. But, these YN's are dedicated, intelligent, and they ARE the future of our hobby. Don't forget to support them by passing on your knowledge and your love of the hobby.

WIN and FUN will be sharing a corner table in the club section at the ANA in Philadelphia. WIN will also have a meeting at 8:00 AM Saturday morning during the ANA convention. Please drop by the club table to say "hello" and attend the meeting on Saturday. In the meantime, have safe and prosperous travels.

*Cindy*

Byzantine: Part III

By Prue Fitts

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Eastern State Penitentiary, PA
Historical Preservation

Travel Tips

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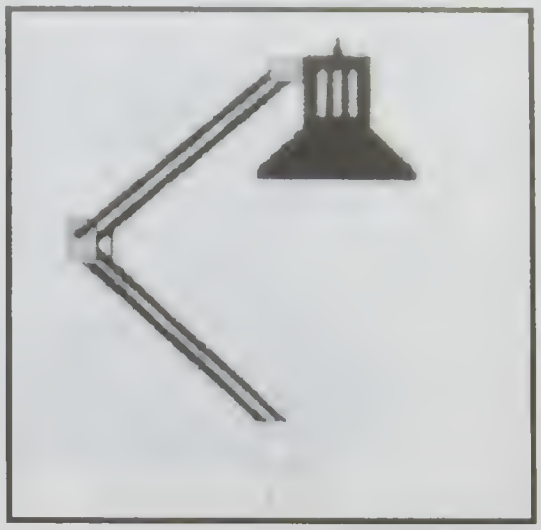

Eye On Grading (Tips)
NGC *News & Views*

By John Maben, NGC

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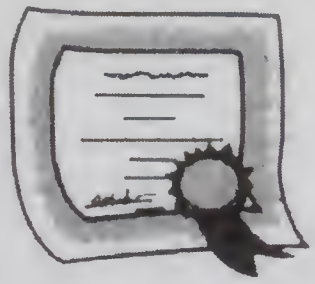
## WIN's Scholarship AWARD Year 2001

Notice: Don't forget to submit your entry application for WIN's ANA Summer Scholarship award. All entries must be received by this Editor by December 15, 2000. See page 3 for details.



Don't forget to attend WIN's meeting. Saturday, August 12...8am.

### WIN Meeting

Place: ANA Money Show, Philadelphia, PA
Date: Saturday, August 12, 2000 Room 203A
Speaker: Donald Charters
Subject: 'Maundy Money'

Door Prizes

Please join us-coffee and rolls served

Gloria Peters

# Viewpoint

By Gloria Peters

Dorothy Baber received a very nice note from Will Rossman thanking WIN members for their support on the family's loss of his wife Terri Rossman.

"Thanks to W.I.N. for the donation to the MS Society. Terri's sister is afflicted (MS) and Terri was passionate and committed about finding a cure.

At the moment, staying behind seems the harder task. I will not get over Terri's untimely pass, but with the help of friends, I hope to get past it."

Will Rossman

## WIN Year 2001 Scholarship Award

This will probably be members' last notice on the Scholarship Award (s) to the ANA Summer Conference to be drawn at the 2001 FUN Show. You do not have to be present to win...but you do have to have your 2001 dues paid and your entry, plus a liability disclaimer, into this editor by December 15th. The postmark will determine if the entry meets this deadline. Dorothy Baber will confirm dues paid.

If this years 2 session Conference is successful we would expect next year to also be a two session affair. Even if you are not sure if you can attend next year, you can still enter (pay your dues) and turn it down if circumstances are not favorable when the time comes to make a committment in January. The opportunity to attend simply passes on to the next name drawn. No penalty.

WIN would like to send two members to the Conference; however, whether one, two or three members can attend depends on the success of our fund raising efforts. The cost went up this year due to an increase in cafeteria food...so who knows. The current cost is airfare ($300 maximum or gas if driving), ANA fee, plus the room and board at the college (two persons sharing the same room).

The entry rules are also simple. A letter to the Editor stating why you want to attend the Conference (about 150-300 words) plus a written disclaimer stating you will not hold WIN responsible for loss or injury either while attending or traveling to and from the Conference. Date and signature are required. Writing skills are not considered, however, it is required to state a numismatic interest. Visiting friends or relatives in the area does not count as a reasonable basic reason to attend on a WIN Scholarship. There is no Scholarship limitation for members as long as the age meets ANA requirements. On a closing note, kids have a lot of fun and opportunities to learn at the Conference and are kept chaparoned and busy throughout. However, most of our members are adults (male and female) and they seem to not only increase their confidence, competence, and establish contacts, but are very influential to both kids and adults in numismatics after attending. More information about the seminar can be obtained by calling ANA Headquarters at 719-632-2646.

## WIN Literary Award

At the ANA Summer Show in Philadelphia WIN will award its annual Literary Award winner with a personalized plaque and cash gift of appreciation. The entries for the year 1999 are:

**January 1999, Volume 8 No. 1**

Tracking The Market by Patricia Davis

The Modern Minting Process-How U.S. Coins Are Made
by Kari Brower

The Carson City Mint Gold Drain
by Cynthia Mohon

**April 1999, Volume 8 No.2**

Tracking The Market-Plunge Protection Team
by Patricia Davis

Great Earthquake and Fire of 1906-The Granite Lady
by Cynthia Mohon

**August 1999, Volumne 8 No.3**

Tracking The Market-The Sleeping Giant
by Patricia Davis

The Denver Mint
by Cynthia Mohon

Dallas Second Time Around
by Gayle K. Pike

Judges have been asked to return their score sheets by June 30, 2000. All writers, regardless of WIN membership, are encouraged to write an article for WIN publication. Content should be of interest to our diverse readership and may be numismatic, human interest, humor, economics, etc. The Judges basic criteria for scoring points is on: Content-10 pts; Composition-Clarity-10 pts; Interest-5 pts; Bonus pts. 1-3 for originality &/or uniqueness, or in case of a tied score... optional; Editor 1/2-3 pts. Photos, References, Graphics furnished by author needed for article. Approximately 3 type written pages plus photos and or graphics are required for a well rounded competitive article to qualify for this award. The Literary Award will again be based on qualified articles printed in *Winning Ways* January, April, and August.

Patricia Davis

# Tracking The Market With Pat

By Patricia Davis
Centennial Coin Galleries
Torrance, CA

## THE VELVET GLOVES ARE COMING OFF!

The new term for the "New World Order" has been transformed by "New Speak," (known as politically correct speech) into the new buzz phrase of "Global Governance."

The pushers of a one world governing body are about to float some trial balloons to see if the world citizens are 'dumbed-down' enough and properly anesthetized to the lessons of history. This should be a walk in the park according to Hegel who noted "History teaches that man learns nothing about history."

I take this, as it infers, that the average American doesn't have a clue into the genius and inspired thought of our constitutional fathers. If this was not so, Americans would be marching in the street and deluging the media, when feel-good solutions to our problems which chip away at the constitution are promoted. Our children are not taught the reason and the great truths that are embodied in the foundation of the greatest nation in recorded history. Our children are not taught rational thought based on the truths upon which our nation was founded. They are being taught that truth is what one decides it is and man decides what is his truth, which is humanism. Oh! But it feels good. So where are the would-be masters asking us to go and what will we give up for peace, security and other lies."

If you were to read the January 17th issue of "The New Republic" you would be met with the proclamation that "America is surrendering its sovereignty to a world government-Hooray! What tears George Washington would shed. All in vain, all for nothing! I can hear old Ben Franklin remind George "Now George, I warned them when I stood on the steps of Liberty Hall and told them that we had given them a Republic and it was up to them to preserve it." George might have replied, "Yes Ben, it was a document inspired by God giving men inalienable rights, not from other men, but from God." If citizens do not grasp the difference and cherish this one fact our sacrifice and accomplishments will not continue to give the individual the glory and freedom proscribed in the Declaration of Independence and codified in the Constitution.

Solomon asked God for wisdom, not gold, riches or any physical blessing. God gave Solomon wisdom, then added all of the above because in Solomon's wisdom all the rest were *etceteras*. Where in America do we find the wisdom which imbued the constitutional fathers?

In the "New Republic" article they correctly came to the conclusion that Americans know nothing about the devastating effects that such a loss of sovereignty would have on taxes, personal liberty, court procedures, property rights, religious liberty and defense.

Until total capitulation the UN will shield Americans from the real effects of the planned changes, even now, we know that many laws and restrictions we live under are against our constitution. How much more insult can our constitution endure until it becomes a total farce much akin to the Roman Republic?

The United Nations will convene a special millennium global summit on the future of the world in September 2000. This summit will be the culmination of 10 years of planning and maneuvering and is intended to begin the implementation phase of numerous structural UN changes aimed at breaking the UN loose from voluntary participation.

The principles that will guide the summit are put forth in the document called "The Charter for Global Democracy" which was published on UN Day, October 24, 1999 and signed by influential leaders in 56 nations as well as most of the "private" non-government organizations (NGOs). NGOs are, for the most part, contingencies of leftist lobbies.

The twelve principles set out in the document are the following:

Principle #1: Calls for the consolidation of all international agencies under the direct authority of the United Nations.

Principle #2: Calls for regulation by the UN of all transnational corporations and financial institutions, requiring an "international code of conduct" concerning the environment and labor standards.

Principle #3: Demands an independent source of revenue for the UN, such as taxes on internet transactions,

aircraft and shipping fuels, and licensing the use of global commons.

Principle #4: Eliminates the veto power and permanent member status on the security council, (This is the big issue. It is aimed exclusively at the U.S.).

Principle #5: Authorizes a standing army.

Principle #6: Requires UN registration of all arms and the reduction of all national armies "as part of a multilateral global security system" under the authority of the United Nations.

Principle #7: Requires individual and national compliance with all UN "human rights" treaties and declarations.

Principle #8: Activates the International Criminal Court, making the International Court of Justice compulsory for all nations, and gives individuals the right to petition the courts to remedy social injustice.

Principle #9, 10 and 11 are all part of the huge environmentalist addenda.

Principle #9: Calls for a new institution to establish economic and environmental security by insuring "sustainable development."

Principle # 11: Calls for a declaration that climate change is an essential global security interest that requires the creation of a "high level" action team to allocate carbon emission based on equal per-capita rights.

Principle #12: Calls for the cancellation of all debt owed by the poorest nations, global poverty reduction, and "equitable sharing of global resources," as allocated by the United Nations.

Well, there it is folks! I don't think they will get all 12 passed, but if they can get #4, 5 or 8 passed and appear to have been thwarted on the remainder they will win because later the others will be implemented by edict and majority rule.

Do you think what is going on will make the front page of your newspaper or be discussed on the Sunday "Talking Heads" shows? While America sleeps our constitution is going to be shredded and one day may only be a "collectors' item.

God Bless and Save America!

Pat

**Editor Note:** Excellent article, Pat. I too hope that the people of America, (even if their forefathers did not fight in the Revoluntary War to establish this country), wake up! America is more than 'new cars;' financial 'free money;' 'the internet;' 'sports;' 'pork barrel' politicians, illegal and immoral acts by individuals, early retirement, cruises, etc. etc. We, as a country, have our problems that many of us refuse to recognize as problems. The 'comfy zone' is us.

Let's hope our children and grandchildren won't look back on us in the future and rue the day we let the worlds 'Big Brother' step in and take over. Freedom is hard to win; but unfortuntely, very easy to give away. We do like our 'comfy zone,' don't we?

## 1943 COPPER CENT

During war years, copper was needed as for alloys utilized for ammunition and weapons. To make the copper from the cent alloy available to the military, the Mint began producing zinc- coated steel cents instead of the copper ally in 1943. Apparently some copper-alloy one cent planchets were left in the feed hopper of the coin press at the Philadelphia Mint. It is now estimated that there were 12 planchets but the exact number will never be known. These copper planchet coins were struck with the 1943 dies which were subsequently used only for the steel cents in that year. In 1947 one of the first 1943 copper cents was found in change. Another one was reported in the June issue of *The Numismatist*. The Philadelphia Mint's acting superintendent, Edwin Dressel, denied in 1947 that any copper cents had been struck in 1943. Subsequently one 1943 copper cent was sold in 1958 for more than $40,000. Another sold in 1981 at an ANA Convention for $10,000. Another was sold in 1996 for $82,500.In December 1999 a 1943 copper cent was sold for $112,500. Public interest is high in these coins because the public can search old penny jars and collections for 1943 cents with at least the hope of finding one. Unfortunately, altered dates on '45, '48 and '49 cents have been produced by crooks hoping to fool unwary novices. Also 1943 steel cents are sometimes coated with copper and are represented as the genuine article..The quickest way to tell if you have a 1943 cent which has been copper-plated is to use a magnet. If the coin is a steel cent, it will cling to the magnet. If it is copper alloy, it will not adhere to the magnet. This will not help the collector to determine authenticity in those case where the false 1943 cent was created by altering another copper alloy coin. It takes a really up close and personal "look-see" at the coin to even render an opinion. But don't give up, unless the coins have been lost or become road-kill there are still about 9 coins still out there!

Note *Red Book, Coin World, Numismatic News* and Press release by ANA on 3-1-99

## Careful Planning Can Alleviate Hotel Hassles*

Long before an ANA show comes to town, the Association's Convention Department must arrange convenient lodging for attendees. To provide adequate housing the ANA reserves large blocks of rooms at selected convention hotels, essentially guaranteeing these rooms will be filled.

Attendees typically reserve rooms well in advance, and hotels often fill months before the convention. Unfortunately, just days before the show, a significant number of collectors and dealers cancel their reservations, usually because they reserved more rooms than needed. If the cancellation rate exceeds 15 to 20 percent, the hotels may charge the ANA a penalty. The vacant rooms can be reserved by other ANA guests, but the discounted rate may no longer apply.

In an effort to keep hotel rates low and ensure sufficient lodging for all, the ANA offers the following suggestions to convention-goers.

✓ To secure your reservation, be prepared to pay a non-refundable, first-night deposit.

✓ Be conservative when reserving rooms. If you must cancel, do so immediately (at least 45 days before the convention). This gives other attendees the opportunity to reserve rooms in the establishment of their choice and allows the ANA to satisfy its commitments without penalty.

✓ If you must cancel less than 30 days before the convention, contact the ANA Convention Department in writing. Staff members will notify the hotel and perhaps fill the vacancy (at the discounted rate) with an ANA member from a waiting list.

When an ANA hotel block is booked to capacity, everyone benefits. Convention-goers are assured of the lowest rates, and the Association strengthens its bargaining power for future site negotiations.

*reprint from June 2000 *The Numismatist*

# From the Secretary's Desk

Rita Jene Sledz

**WIN General Meeting**
**Minneapolis, MN**
**May 6, 2000**

In the absence of WIN President **Patti Finner**, incoming WIN President **Cindy Grellman** opened the meeting at 8:11 AM. Members and guests were welcomed. There were 14 persons in attendance. These numbers were limited due to the meeting having been left out of the Central States show directory: and the meeting place was concurrently scheduled with the CSNS Breakfast.

The minutes from the Long Beach meeting are available in *WINNING WAYS* for members to review. Any changes or corrections should be addressed to the President or the Secretary.

President Cindy Grellman called for the Treasurer's Report. In the absence of Treasurer, **Dorothy Baber**, the report was provided by **Cindy Mohon**. There is a total of $7,058.24 as of 5/2/2000. This includes Savings and Checking accounts.

Cindy Grellman indicated the incoming board members:
**President: Cindy Grellman**
**Vice President: Don Charters**
**Secretary: Rita Jene Sledz**
**Treasurer: Dorothy Baber**
**Editor: Gloria E. Peters**
**Parliamentarian: Patti Finner**
**Member At Large-Fundraising: Jerry Morgan**
**Member At Large-Publicity: Loralei Lissor**
**Member At Large-Advertising: Rollie Finner**

**Jerry Morgan** gave a brief report on fundraising activities. The Canadian Mint is selling quarter boards from which 25 cents from each sale is donated to WIN. He presented a check in the amount of $122.00 for this donation to WIN. The funds were designated for the WIN Scholarship funds. There are strong efforts being made through Scotsman's Coins via products of the Canadian Mint to support the following numismatic programs:
WIN (25 Cents from each sale);
ANA Library (25 Cents from each sale);
ICTA (25 Cents from each sale);
Individual State Numismatic Societies (25 Cents from each sale).
The quarter boards are a great fund-raiser:
$6.75 wholesale cost
$15.00 retail sales
Banks have purchased as many as 15,000 at a whack. Also available are the colorized Eagles.
Other funds will be raised for the Christopher Reeves foundation to find treatments for spinal injuries.

**Jerry Morgan presents WIN Scholarship check to Prez Cindy Grellman**

**Jerry Morgan, WIN's Fundraising Chair from Scotsman Coins, shows WIN meeting attendees the new Washington Quarter Board which will raise funds for charities, including WIN Scholarships.**

Cindy Grellman called upon **Gloria Peters** for the editor's report. Gloria stated how pleased she was with the **Prue Fitts** articles on ancient coins, and that another two articles in the series are anticipated from Prue. **Rita Jene** will also do another article and a poem. All of this fresh material really helps *WINNING WAYS*. Gloria indicated that the advertising is in better shape, but new ads are still needed in order to make the publication self supporting. At that point both **Remy Bourne** and **Jerry Morgan** indicated that they would each take full page ads in the journal. Gloria expressed her appreciation.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Cindy Grellman indicated that WIN could have a free table at Philadelphia but she is reluctant to contract for it if staff cannot be scheduled to be at the table. At this time we have had tentative offers of help from **Bob Campbell** who indicated that his wife and WIN member, **Carol Campbell**, would be open to being asked to help at the table, and possibly Prue Fitts. Jerry

Morgan offered his assistance with the table. Cindy indicated that if she can work out reasonable coverage, the table will be accepted. She thanked the members for their offers of help for the table coverage.

Speakers for the upcoming show were announced. At ANA, **Don Charters** will talk on the topic of Maundy Money. October Long Beach has no speaker scheduled at this time. **Anthony Swiatek** volunteered to do a presentation at FUN 2001.

Cindy Grellman appealed to the membership to assist **Marlene Highfill** in her campaign to get a coin collecting badge approved for the Girl Scouts of America. They currently have a merit badge for "collecting" but not specifically for "coin collecting." Don Charters added a very interesting comment to this discussion. He said he counted the numbers of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts attending the Ft. Lauderdale Show. There were 2 times as many Girl Scouts as Boy Scouts. Cindy reiterated that Marlene Highfill needs support. Please send letters to her at Marlene Highfill, P.O. Box 25, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, 74013-0025.

WIN's elongated cents will be ordered for initial distribution at Philadelphia.

Cindy also announced that WIN will be reducing the number of national meetings as of this year. The WIN meetings will be held in conjunction with these major coin conventions: FUN, Central States, Summer ANA, and Fall Long Beach. This eliminates the Long Beach Spring and Summer meetings.

Drawings were held for the door prizes. First winner was Anthony Swiatek; second was Gloria Peters; third was Rita Jene Sledz; Fourth was Remy Bourne; Fifth was Cindy Grellman and Sixth was Don Charters. In the end, almost everyone attending received a nice door prize. Some of the items were re-donated to the YN auction.

**Marvin Mericle**

Anthony Swiatek provided a brief slide show. The slides were great and, as usual, Anthony provided good-hearted humor with his presentation.

Cindy Grellman introduced WIN's speaker for this meeting: **Marvin Mericle**. The topic of his speech was "What It's Really Like to Have a Robbery."

After over 50 years in the hobby of numismatics, Mr. Mericle had multiple collections including a Bust Half type set, other type sets, and military currency collection. This being his main hobby, he gave talks to a lot of people: Clubs, Retirement Homes, Kiwana's and about anyone you can think of. After attending a coin show, he came home to find his home had been burglarized, his safe was discovered and they had peeled it. He stated that the major difference between a robbery and a burglary is that with the robbery you have a clue who did it. With a burglary, you just ask yourself, "Who was it?" "Do I know them?" "Was it a set-up?"

The burglars went through his desk and took his awards which were not really worth anything in terms of money. So, why did they take them? He will never know the answer, but the loss of the awards was devastating. The burglars missed the computer disks which had the lists of the coin, medals and currency collections. These disks did not have the records of the awards. Many of these awards were in lucite holders.

The burglary opens a different image of the hobby itself. There were no clues as to how they had gained access to the house. There is a possibility they used a garage door electronic processor to go through electronic combinations for the garage door opener. They can do this from at least 3 houses away. The local police in Fort Wayne, Indiana were not helpful in the least. They refused to look for fingerprints saying they had no way to process them. They didn't know (or refused to say) if there had been a pattern of similar burglaries in the area.

Eventually, the FBI helped find, arrest and convict these burglars. They turned out to be two brothers who have been doing this all their lives. They had served time before. Their *modus operandi* was to somehow discover collectors by either using the old membership address lists published by ANA. (ANA doesn't publish addresses anymore, but it used to.) Locate the member's phone number using reverse phone directories or Internet sources. Call the collector's home to determine what kind of schedule was being followed—for when the home would be empty. The FBI found that Marvin Mericle's phone number was on the burglar's phone records as having been called a number of times. They contacted Marvin to discover that he had been burglarized. The brothers usually hit homes on holiday weekends. They were convicted of five counts of taking stolen property across state lines. The FBI located the stolen property fence, he was 74 years old. The burglars were 59 and 54, life time criminals. The FBI found the Military Payment Certificates. The theory is that the burglars did not know how to market these items because of their unique serial numbers.

Mr. Mericle got back about half of his collection. He knows he will never see the rest of the items, such as the coins and the Ocean County Coin Club awards and tokens. He encourages his friends in the hobby to realize that technology is very helpful for the burglars; but that technology can help the hobbyist too. Keep an inventory of your collection at a different location than the items. Use the Internet to advertise the descriptions and identifiers of the stolen items. Email everybody really fast. Encourage clubs to start looking at rewards and prevention.

Finally, Marvin Mericle told the group that numismatics and collecting is the world's greatest hobby. Just because something bad happens—don't give up the hobby.

Anthony Swiatek installed the new WIN Board and the meeting was adjourned.

**Please send your change of address to:**
**Rita Jene Sledz, Secretary**
**5175 Gloria**
**Wayne, MI 48784**

WIN's new Board of Directors
Cindy Grellman-Prez., Rita Jene Sledz-Secretary, Jerry Morgan-Fund Raising Chair., Gloria Peters-Editor, Don Charters-Vice-Prez., and WIN installer ANA Board member, Anthony Swiatek.
Not available: Dorothy Baber-Treasuer, Lorelei Lissor-Publicity, Pattie Finner-Parliamentarian and Rollie Finner-Advertising.

## Just A Reminder

WIN has cut it's regular meetings to four times a year
FUN in January
Central States in April or May
ANA Summer Show in August
Long Beach Show in October or Sept.

**Your attendance, members and guests, is always appreciated and welcomed.**

## WIN Bylaws Changes as of May 6, 2000

Article III, Section A, Item 5
Associates will not receive a Winning Ways Journal, but will have full voting rights and may hold office.

Article IV, Section B, Item 3
Effective with 2001 dues.
20% of all dues paid will be placed in the WIN Scholarship Fund.

Article X, Section A, Item 1
Regular membership meetings shall be held at the FUN show, the Spring Central States show, the summer ANA, and the fall Long Beach show, for a total of four (4) general meetings.

The above changes were voted on by the board of directors, and go into effect as of June 6, 2000. None of these items affect the voting rights of the general membership so a general vote is unneccessary.

Patricia A. Finner, Parliamentarian

Addendum: Due to cancellation of the February Long Beach show general meeting.
All noninations and voting for board of directors positions will close at the yearly scheduled January Fun show general meeting.

Please add these changes to your copy of WIN Bylaws

## In Memoriam

WIN member Terri Rossman, wife of Will Rossman, died Monday April 17 at her home in Garland, Texas. Terri was only 52 years old when she met her untimely death. It was a shock to all who knew her.

We had met Terri on a couple of flights when she and her husband were traveling with the Heritage Coin entourage returning to Texas from a coin show. Friendly, gracious and lively would best describe her encounter with us...and I'm sure many, many others.

Our sympathy goes out to Will and family. Will requested any contributions be made in Terri Rossman's memory to The National Multiple Sclerosis Society at 733 Third Ave, New York, NY 10017. You may call NMSS at 800-344-4867 for more information. WIN made a donation to NMSS in Terri's name.

We will miss you, Terri

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## WHITMAN RELEASES DELUXE 50-STATE COMMEMORATIVE QUARTER COIN FOLDER

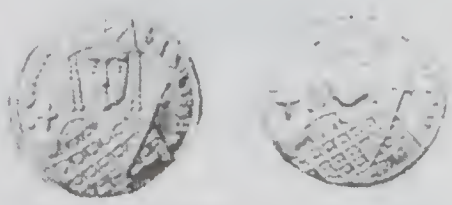
Whitman Coin Products is proud to offer the collector a new deluxe 50-state commemorative quarter coin folder. This-ten-year coin folder provides 100 coin slots, one for each Statehood quarter from both the Philadelphia and Denver Mints. It is the only way to collect both quarters from the Philadelphia and Denver Mints in a single coin folder volume. Information on when each Statehood quarter is released and educational state facts such as state capitals, flowers, songs, and nicknames are included in each folder. The folder features the traditional Whitman blue cover with gold embossing for a distinctive, elegant appearance. The folders open flat for all-at-once viewing and have protective flaps that prevent the coins from touching. Celebrate America's history state by state by organizing your collection in this new deluxe edition coin folder available from your local coin dealer, hobby shop, or wherever books are sold. The suggested retail price is $6.99 (ISBN: 1-58238-078-3).

**Editor:** This coin folder is pictured on page 15 under 'The Bibliophile' by Ken Bressett.

# BYZANTINE: Part III

**By Prue Fitts**

**Irene (797-802)'s** rule was the first time a woman alone on the throne exercised sole power. She had the unique dilemma of portraiture on her coins. She could not place the picture of her son on the reverse where dead ancestors traditionally appeared. Obviously he was not an ancestor; and, moreover, she had caused his death. Her solution was to put herself on both sides. The next problem was her title: no longer the "Augusta" or "wife of the Emperor," she needed a designation in her own right. She used the feminine form of "Basilius" (king.): "Basilia which appears on each side of the coin. Constantinople *solidii* and *folles* are available but Syracuse issues are rare.



**Irene (797-802)** [1]

Latins in the Western Roman Empire did not recognize her as ruler of the Eastern throne and when Charlemagne [2] was crowned in 800, he was designated the Emperor Governor of the Domains of Romans the first Emperor in Western Europe in four centuries. Serious consideration was given to a marriage with Irene in order to legitimize the Eastern Empire. The mind reels at the thought of how history might have changed with these two joined players – particularly if they had ruled in the same neighborhood!

**Charlemagne** [2]

Having exercised considerable political vigor to achieve her elevation, Irene spent the remainder of her reign draining the treas ury by remitting taxes and duties. She created lavish displays of wealth, driving through her capital in a carriage with matched white horses. But she also worked tirelessly for the restoration of icons and founded monasteries and nunneries. For this and her attempts to reunite the Eastern and Western Churches, she was awarded sainthood by the Pope. Apparently she did not mind overmuch when she was banished to Lesbos by her treasurer Nicephorus, within a year with her red shoes on. [4]

**Irene mosaic** [3]

**Nicephorus (802-811)** immediately set about implementing fiscal reforms to restore the depleted treasury. He took the offensive in the North against the Bulgarians and their formidable leader, Krum, in 811. After an initial stunning success, he was fatally wounded thus earning the dubious distinction of becoming the first Emperor in many centuries to die in battle. His army was annihilated by the Bulgarians and his son and heir, Stauracius was so mortally injured that it was clear that he would not survive to rule. In the scant two months before he relinquished his throne to his brother in law, **Michael I (811-813)**, no coins were issued for him alone, his very fungible Byzantine portrait having appeared as co-emperor with his father.

**Michael I as co-emperor)** [5]

Michael's short reign saw the conclusion of a twelve year-long-peace negotiation with Charlemagne which marked, for the first time, two Roman Emperors, independent, but respecting the claims and titles of the other. When his delay in fighting Krum (again) cost the devastation of his army, Michael abdicated. A former friend, Leo, the Armenian, had earlier deserted Michael on the battlefield. But in a throw back to the old way of choosing a leader, he was acclaimed by the Army and proclaimed Emperor. **Leo V (813-820)** was crowned on Christmas Day.

Leo was a strong and skilled military presence defeating the Bulgarians on their frequent attacks on his city but his strong iconoclast policies were his undoing. Seven years to the day, he was assassinated before the high altar of St Sophia by followers of a former friend, Michael. His designated heir, another Constantine, and siblings were mutilated in Byzantine fashion and the surviving family banished. Copper coinage was not issued in great quantity throughout most of the Iconoclast period which lasted another forty years. As with the gold, there were multiple portraits of the Impe-

1. Photo courtesy of Harlan Berk in *Roman Gold Coins of the Medieval World 38301453 AD Solidus.*

3. 13th Century mosaic from St. Sophis, Constantinople.

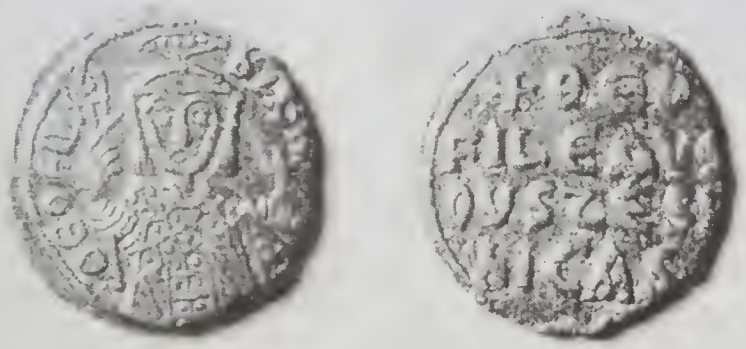
4. Only Emperors and Empresses were allowed to wear red shoes.

5. Photo courtesy of Harlan Berk in *Roman Gold Coins of the Medieval World 383-1453 AD Solidus.*

rial family, though these are naturally not as clear as the gold. [6]

**Michael II (820-829)** was virtually illiterate and a rough and tumble soldier. But he was politically astute enough to skate through the icon controversy, siding with neither faction and offending neither. Allied with yet another Krum, he defeated a possible internal takeover but lost Crete, a key outpost, to the Muslims. He died peacefully in bed, perhaps his major distinction.

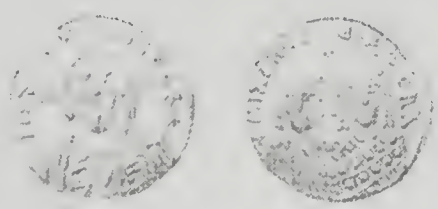
In contrast, his son, **Theophilus (829-842)** was highly educated. A strong proponent of the Arts, he had been co-



Obverse **Theophilus 829-842** Reverse [7]

emperor with his father. He purportedly enjoyed shopping in the local markets. He changed the reverse of the copper and silvers to a four-line inscription. He was considered to be the last Iconoclast Emperor, though his second wife, Theodora, had a secret chamber containing icons for her worship of God.

When he died from dysentery, his only surviving son and successor was two years old. It would be another 14 years before **Michael III (842-867)** removed his mother, and sisters, Thecla, Anna, and Anastasia as regents and assumed the throne. A playboy known as "The Drunkard," Michael had been profoundly affected at the Church service which condemned iconoclasm and he is credited with the restoration of iconography. The enthroned figure of Christ became the normal obverse on gold from this time onward. Christ with long hair and full beard, and cross behind head wears pallium and colobium and raises right hand in benediction. In his left hand is the book of Gospels.



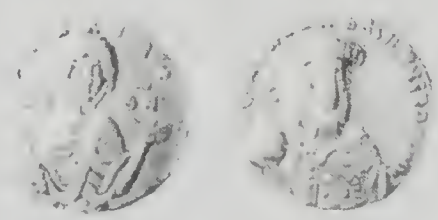
**Michael III** [8]
**Restoration of iconography**

Evidently Michael skipped his Byzantine primer, for he elevated his friend, a warrior peasant to the rank of co-emperor. Fatal for Michael, murdered by his buddy but good for the Empire, **Basil I (867-886), the Macedonian,** [Photos #8, #9] [9] shown with his two sons, Leo and Constantine, proved

**Basil I (867-886) with his two sons** [9]

to be an effective ruler. He considered himself another Justinian, and restored some lost territories, notably southern Italy, and the coast of Dalmatia and advanced to Mesopotamia. At home, he started a revision of the law and shored up St Sophia which was in imminent danger of collapsing. He built a new church, the Nea within the area of the Great Palace whose golden capped domes gleamed throughout the city. He had four sons, only one of which he really loved, and this one, Constantine, predeceased him. In a hardly credible hunting accident which had a stag charging and hooking the Emperor in such a way that he was dragged 16 miles before anyone in the rescue party saw the riderless horse, Basil died at the age of 70. (It should be noted that the head of the rescue party was none other than the father of Leo's mistress). The younger son **Leo VI, (886-912) The Wise** came to power as a scholar rather than a military man.

The security of the Empire suffered but he finished his father's work on the legal code. Written in Greek rather than Latin it became the basis of law in the Medieval Empire. The first representation of the Virgin appeared on a *solidus*. Called the Virgin Orans (raised arms), her hair is hooded with the maphorium. This headdress is a "signature" for her portraits in all media. [10].



**Virgin Orans** [10]

The Byzantine Church was very strict in its laws on remarriage. Second marriages were grudgingly permitted but a third time resulted in the penalty of denial of the sacrament for four years. Emperors, of course, had different rules and a male heir was paramount. But when Leo's third wife died in childbirth and their son soon followed her, the Patriarch dug in his ecclesiastical heels and refused to marry Leo again. Leo took a mistress and the Church turned a blind eye, but when Zoe produced a son, the situation became snarly indeed. The

6. The marks of value still appeared on the reverse but after Constantine V (741-45) only the "M" was used.
7. *Half follis*. "Theophilus Augustus May You conquer." S. 1668.
8. Photo courtesy of Harlan Berk in Roman Gold Coins of the Medieval World 383-1453 AD. Michael and Theodora. *Solidus* B. 263. D. 1687

9. Follis S.1712.
10. It should be noted that the head of the rescue party was none other than the father of Leo's mistress.

Patriarch could not condone a fourth marriage, nor would he condone his Emperor living in sin. Although an agreement was reached whereby the baby could be baptized, he was still considered a bastard and therefore not qualified to inherit the throne. Leo had a quiet chapel service and married Zoe. Within a year, she was being accorded the status of Empress. However, the Patriarch denied his Emperor access to St Sophia and was in turn, arrested and forced to sign an order of his own abdication. Leo proved his ability to thread the maze of Western politics as well as he successfully enlisted the support of the Pope with Eastern Patriarchates who finally granted the awaited dispensation for his marriage. His action split the Church deeply but it ensured the continuation of his line, the Macedonian Dynasty, thought by some to be the greatest in Byzantine history.

The long rule of Leo's legitimized son; Constantine **VII (913-959)** typified the sometimes tortuous system of succession to the Byzantine throne. Initially, as a minor, he was elevated to co-emperor (in title only) with his uncle, **Alexander (912-913)** who ruled for barely a year.[11] When he died, the Patriarch Nicholas assumed the regency until was faced down by Symeon[12] of Bulgaria who arrived at the city gates with an army with a staggeringly huge army. A palace revolution bumped Symeon (who nevertheless hung around, menacingly) and put Constantine's mother, Zoe, on the throne as regent. Romanus Lecapenus, commander of the Fleet, assumed power, married his own daughter to Constantine to legitimize his position of co-emperor the following year. Meanwhile, Constantine, the legitimate heir, had still taken no active part in the government as Romanus' sons became co-emperors and one, Christopher, even took precedence as seen on coinage. [Photo 11][13] Christopher died in 931 and in typical Byzantine protocol the two brothers-seized power from their father, but before they could take over, Constantine's long line of legitimate ancestry won out with the people. The two were forced to formally acknowledge his claim. His wife, their sister, saw to it that they were properly dealt with, and exiled. And at last, Constantine finally assumed sole power in 945.

**Photo 11**

Whether he really wished the job is debatable, for he was a scholar like his father who believed in peace rather than war. He is best known for his book of Ceremonies, a superb and unique reference of court ceremony [14] in the Middle Byzantine period. His reign is considered to be the centerpiece of the "Macedonian Renaissance," [15] and Byzantium achieved an international status as the Empire attempted to regain its old borders.

**Romanus II (954-963)** started with an ideal life. Co-ruler with his father for 14 years, he inherited a secure empire at the age of 20. He had a beautiful wife, Theophano, with whom he was genuinely in love, and two sons, Basil II, and Constantine VIII both named to share the throne. Potentially a significant ruler, he died at the age of 24.[17] Perhaps to stabilize the throne, the widow enlisted the aid of a renowned military commander. When he was proclaimed Emperor, **Nicephorus II (963-969)** married her. Technically regent for her son Basil before her remarriage, there are no coins produced in Theophano's name. Her new husband did acknowledge Basil as the legitimate heir on coinage but otherwise ignored him. His six year reign is noted for his military prowess with the annexation of part of Syria and the capture of Cyprus. He introduced the gold *tetarteron*, slightly smaller than the *solidus* but distinguishable by its lighter weight. Later it would be a different fabric from the full weight *solidus* or *histamenon nomisma* which contained 4.5 grams of gold.

**Christ enthroned** [16]

**Constantine & Romanus II 913-959** [16]

Nicephorus was assassinated by his nephew who was also his wife's lover. **John I, Tzimisces (969-976)** [18] He exiled Theophano and immediately married the daughter of Constantine VII to solidify his claim. That she was a nun seemed to present no difficulties, and she became another Theodora.

**John I, Tzimisces (969-976)**

Photo #10 courtesy of Harlan Berk in Roman Gold Coins of the Medival World 383-1453 AD Solidus. B270. S. 1723.

11. During his reign, coins depicting saints appeared crowning thir Imperial namesakes.

12. Great great grandson of the old nemesis, Krum.

13. Scanned Milaresion courtesy of Christopher Connel. Basil R in five lines with triple border. S.1754.

14. An exhaustive encyclopedia of reference which covers topics such as descriptions of the imperial provinces and digests of military strategy, jurisprudence, medicine, and history.

15. His palace was described as an arena of awesome mechanical devices-bronze singing birds, and a throne on a platform which could be lowered or raised at will and guarded by guilded lions who roared as the supplicant was ushered into Constantine's presence.

16.Christ enthroned, with right hand raised in benediction, book of Gospels in left. Constantine VII and shorter Roimanus, standing facing both crowned with long patriarchial cross between them. Solidus S. 1751.

17. There is a very rare *solidii* showing Christ on the obverse and Romanus alone on the reverse.

The first copper pieces which showed the bust of Christ appeared at this time.[19] They are called the Anonymous Bronze Coinage [19] because the portrait and name of the Emperor does not appear on them. There would be no folles showing names or Imperial portraits for another hundred years until Constantine X reintroduced the imperial types. The reverse began with various four line inscriptions but in the latter half, the types were more varied with an ornate cross or a bust or figure of the Virgin.

**Anonymous Bronze Coinage**

**Anonymous *Follis***
**Issued under Romanus IV, 1068-1071** [20]

**John I Tzimisces** was a brilliant General who routed the Russians from their threat to his very city. He received three million *nomisma* in tribute and ransom from the Muslims. He marched to Palestine and while he did not take Jerusalem, he regained much of Syria, Lebanon and reached Mesopotamia. It would not be until his death, seven years later, from typhoid.[21] that Basil and Constantine VIII, the legitimate heirs of Theophano and Romanus II, were finally on the throne.

**Basil II (976-1025)** was known as the Bulgar slayer for obvious reason, as this threat was constant during his early years. He ascended at the age of 18 and showed his natural ability early on. By the beginning of the 11th Century [22] he succeeded in completely smashing the Bulgarian Empire and incorporating it into Byzantine borders. He produced an exceptional silver *miliaresion* with a bust of the Virgin on the obverse, holding the nimbate head of the Infant Christ [23] The succession of his uninvolved, uninterested and hedonistic brother, **Constantine VIII (1025-1028)** began the slippery slide toward the decline and ultimate collapse of the Byzantine Empire. The political situation began to unravel as the coinage took on, literally, a new shape.

Next time: the syphate.

---

18 This obverse shows a circular medallion with the facing bust of John with short beard, wearing crown and loros and dividing the inscription; the triple border ornamented with 8 equally spaced globules. S1792.

19. Anonymous type A2. *Follis*. S1813.

20. Anonymous Follis Class G. Scan provided by Christopher Connell.

21. Or poison depending on the source.

22. **Time line:** About 1000 Leif Erikson visited what he called Vineland (our North America.) Omar Khayyam (1048-1122) wrote the *Rubaiyat* and he also solved cubic equations using geometry while he reformed the Muslim calendar. Yoga's meditational techniques were being described by Indian scientists and the Bayeau tapestry was being sewn.

## Rita Jene Says

Mom and dad worked on Friday
they had to work Saturday too.
They promised us kids on Sunday
there'd be a fun thing to do.

Sunday morn we went to church
mom and dad took us to brunch.
I didn't know where they were headed
but boy, I sure had a hunch.

Dad parked the car in a structure,
we started for the convention center.
Wow! We're going to a coin show
and it doesn't cost a dime to enter.

I collect pennies and nickels
my mom collects coins that are old.
My sister collects those smooshed things
but my dad, he really likes gold.

When we entered the big room
it must have been near 12 o'clock
all of our smiles turned upside down,
it came as a very big shock.

Most of the dealers were already gone
many of the tables were bare.
Empty cases were stacked up high,
there was hardly anyone there.

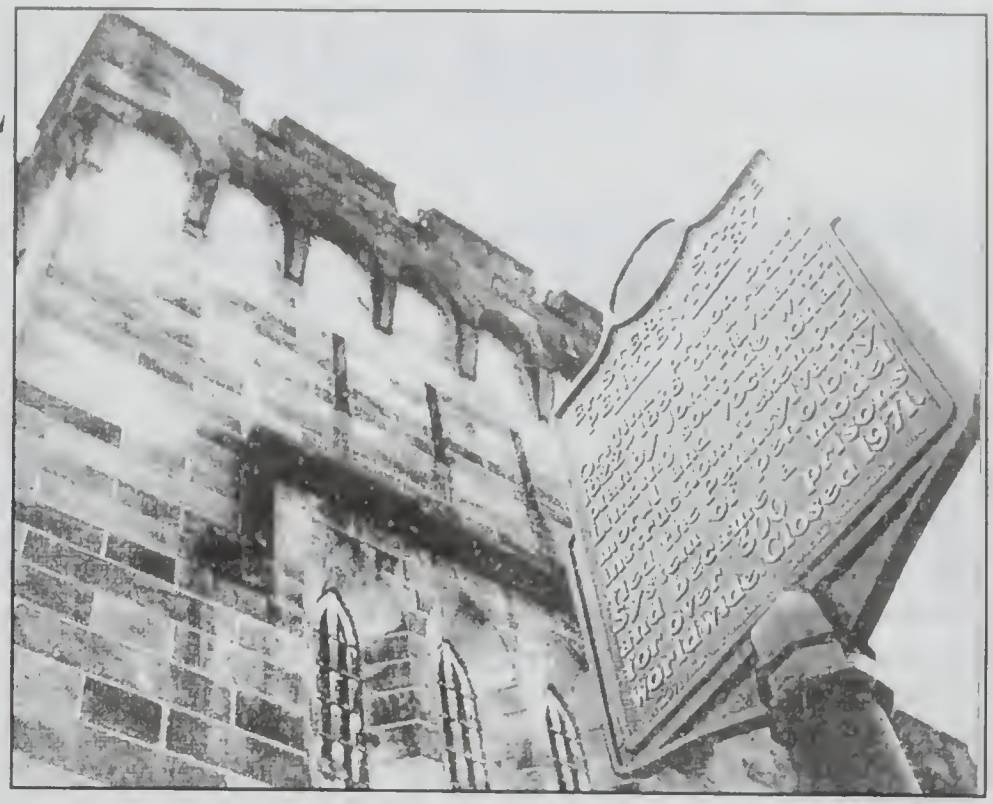
We were told the show ended at three
I guess someone just didn't know
that some of the families including ours,
couldn't come sooner to the show.

Well, anyway, my sister
came home feeling rich as a queen
cause in the corner of that big room
she found a squished penny machine.

So Mr. Dealer wherever you are,
when you say the show ends at three,
don't say it if you don't mean it.
Don't lie to kids like me.

**Dealers, from out of town, leaving a Convention early seems to be a problem for most show promoters, and different solutions have been tried. Some work a bit when a stiff penalty is actually used...not just threatened.**
**In defense of those leaving early it seems to be a 'catch 22' situation. If there are still quite a few customers actually buying coins/currency, *etc.*, many dealers might change their 'I have to leave early' habits.**
**In reality dealers travel to a show to buy/sell and make a living; the expenses are too high to just 'hang out.'**

# TRAVEL TIPS



## MONUMENT TO PENANCE

**Historical Preservation**

**By Jennifer Brown**
The Associated Press
From Philadelphia
Photos by Dan Loh/Associated Press

**Eastern State Penitentiary was the model for many a 19th-century prison. Imposing Structure: A plaque tells some of the prison's story. From the outside. It was meant to imtimidate; on the inside, to reform.**

It was once the most famous prison in the world. Alexis de Tocqueville praised it; Charles Dickens hated it. Al Capone sat out a gang war there, partying with prison guards in a cell decorated with oil paintings and oriental rugs. Brad Pitt even went crazy there.

Now, the 170-year-old Eastern State Penitentiary, which closed in 1971, is one of the nation's best kept historical secrets and one of its most endangered. Winter winds and storms are eating away at the rock and stone skeleton of the prison, which was named to the World Monuments Watch list of the 100 most endangered sites in 1997.

The towering fortress on a hill oil the north edge of Philadelphia's Center City attracts about 10,000 people a year about the same number as walked through in its heyday in the 1850s.

Created by Quakers, Eastern State was the first prison to try to reform inmates through isolation. The theory, known as the Pennsylvania System, spawned a century of controversy and is still a key benchmark in the evolution of punishment.

"It's a pretty frightening place," says sixth-grade teacher Damaris South of the Baldwin School in Bryn Mawr. "It makes students shiver and be curious at once. It's about our American history. It's about how we treat people."

Visitors must wear hard hats and sign waivers to tour the cavernous cellblocks, the visitors rooms, death row and the original exercise yard. The requirements, which include prohibiting children under age 7, are necessary because the prison's crumbling walls and weakening roof do not pass the city's building code. The open areas, which cover less than one-fifth of the prison's 11 enclosed acres, are worth the tour, which takes about an hour and is available to the public from May through October. Highlights include the Bastille Day celebration, in which a woman portraying Marie Antoinette throws Twinkies from the top of the prison walls to plead for her life, and Halloween's candlelight tours by costumed guides.

Its 30-foot-high walls and medieval-style castle towers were once the tallest structures in the city and still dominate the quiet Victorian row houses around it. Its exterior was a facade to frighten children, while the inside was meant to inspire penitence.

"The exterior looks like a castle; the inside is built like a church," says Sean Kelley, who serves as both prison spokesman and tour guide. "It was meant to scare children from the outside, but inside, prisoners were supposed to become reformed without physical punishment."

Eastern State opened in 1829 with each inmate alone in a cell with nothing but a bed, a Bible and a skylight. To keep security tight and limit inmate interaction, the prison was built in a wagon-wheel design in which the cellblocks lined up like the spokes of a wheel. The structure, mimicked by more than 300 prisons around the world, allowed a single guard to stand in the central rotunda and have a view down all seven original cellblocks.

The $800,000 prison was the most expensive structure ever built at the time. It had indoor plumbing in every cell and central heating at a time when even the White House had an outhouse and a coal-burning furnace. Whether because of its modern conveniences or for its unique design, the prison became a top tourism attraction.

Dickens made a special trip to America to see Niagara Falls and Eastern State, eventually decrying its punishment by isolation as "immeasurably worse than any torture of the body."

In contrast, de Tocqueville, who was then chronicling life in the United States, praised the prison's reliance on psychological rather than physical punishment. On his recommendation, dozens of similar prisons were built in France.

By the 20th century, however, both the reform system and its secure structure were abandoned: The building's original seven cellblocks were doubled to 14 by 1925. Originally intended for 250 solitary inmates, by the 1920s Eastern State housed 1,700 people who shared cells, ate together and exercised in group recreation areas that included a baseball diamond.

Continued Page 21

# THE BIBLIOPHILE

By Kenneth Bressett

## *The Official Whitman Handbook For Statehood Quarters Collector's Handbook.*

By Kenneth Bressett

I am somewhat reluctant to comment on any of my own books in this column but this latest work is timely enough, and of such broad appeal, that I want to call it to your attention. I will try to be as objective as possible in these remarks without showing too much partiality to what I consider to be one of the most needed books of the decade. Only the readers can judge if filling that goal has been met by the author.

*The Official Whitman Statehood Quarters Collector's Handbook* has just reached retail bookstores and coin shops throughout the country. Within its 96 pages and colorful card cover are numerous illustrations and drawings. The informative book is designed especially for the thousands of coin collectors who have recently been exposed to the hobby by seeing and saving Statehood quarters.

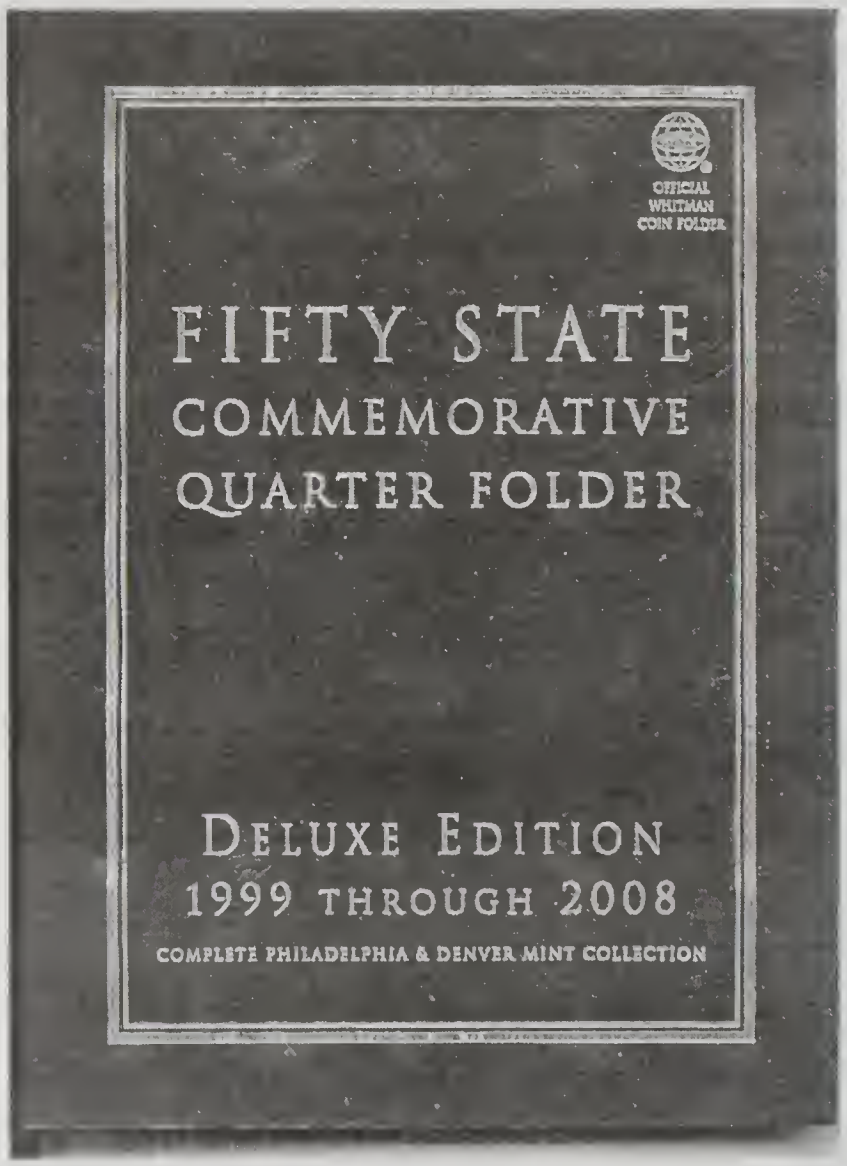
The Statehood Quarters Collector's Handbook has been written by Kenneth Bressett, an authority on coin collecting, who is well-known as the editor of many Whitman books including the *Guide Book of United States Coins*. Other numismatic books by Bressett include the *Whitman Guide to Coin Collecting*, and *Collectible American Coins*. Bressett, is a past president of the American Numismatic Association a 50- year member of the association, as well as a member of WIN.

Chapters in the new book include details on the history of United States quarters from their beginning as two-bit-fractions of Spanish-American coins, commemorative quarters of the past and present, collectible varieties, and why the design was changed for the new millennium. Details are given about how the 50-state quarters program was started, what it means to the public, and how it is being conducted.

A special section of this book looks at the designs that are being used for the Statehood quarters and speculates on what the most likely choices may be for each of the states that will be honored throughout the program from 1999 to 2008. In Chapter 4 the selection process is discussed and details are given for how the public can participate in submitting their designs. Examples are given of commemorative coins that have honored individual states in the past, and tips are included about what is required for an acceptable design.

Chapters 5 and 6 are devoted to collecting coins as a hobby, with timely information about how to collect, what to avoid, where to look for coins, and what is needed for background reading and equipment. Albums and storage considerations are explained along with descriptive information about cleaning coins, insurance and safekeeping. *The Official Whitman Statehood Quarters Collector's Handbook* is designed especially for beginners but it also contains a wealth of information about all United States quarters and the exciting challenge of collecting them that is sure to be of interest to all collectors. The capsule descriptions and background information that is given about each state makes this text an ideal companion to a set of Statehood quarters.

*The Official Whitman Statehood Quarters Collector's Handbook* is published by St. Martin's Press of New York City, and is available from local coin dealers, hobby shops, or wherever books are sold. Suggested retail price is $4.99. ISBN number 1-58238-095-3.




**New Whitman collectors coin folder. Contains spaces and information for all the new quarters. Dark blue with gold embossing. 9 7/8" by 7" wide. Designed by Kenneth Bressett.**

# Eye On Grading

By John Maben, NGC Finalizer

**1 Hold and view the coin correctly**. This is a common mistake, one made even by seasoned numismatists. Always hold the coin by its edges, between your index finger and thumb. I use the middle finger on my right hand as a safety net should the coin slip out of my grip, rock the coin back and forth while at the same time turns it in a circular motion that gives the coin a full 45-degree angle. In combination with superior lighting conditions, this technique will enable you to see hairlines and light cleaning that might otherwise go unnoticed.

2 **Choose your lighting carefully**. Some may disagree, but I say avoid fluorescent light altogether. I prefer a standard desktop or table mounted lamp with a 100-watt bulb, though others on our grading team use a 75- watt bulb. Do not try to save money by purchasing inexpensive bulbs... I've found they give off a more yellow light. Less than 75- watts is not adequate unless you are using a special high intensity lamp. Looking at a coin with a halogen light is, to me, like staring into the sun. Generally, keep 12" to 16" between the light source and the coin you are grading. Look at proof coins twice. Once from a distance of 12" to 16," between the light source to 22" to see hairlines with greater ease. Most important, when you find a light source that works for you and delivers a "true" look at the coin, stick with it.

**3 Use a quality magnifier, sparingly**. Use a glass only when you really need it, unless your vision requires continual magnification to avoid eyestrain. I have three glasses, a Bausch & Lomb 5x slide, a 16x loupe and a Zeiss 24/12. I only pick up a glass if I see something that warrants closer inspection or if it's a frequently counterfeited or altered coin type. Continual use of a glass can cause one to micro-grade, focusing on minute imperfections that could lead to consistent under-grading. Microscopes are great for authenticating or confirming hidden defects, but I can't imagine grading with one.

**4 Wipe the slate clean with each coin you grade.** One of the first thing you learn as a professional grader is not to let the coin just graded influence the grade you assign to the next. I have no problem assigning a coin an MS68 grade when it was preceded by a lightly cleaned VF35. Likewise, I would not be influenced into grading an MS64 coin MS65 if the coin before it was a fabulous MS67. At NGC, we frequently find gems among a group of coins many would consider junk. If you should come upon an exceptional, all-original group of similar coins, I believe it's OK to do comparative grading to the extent needed to grade the coins consistently. As an NGC Finalizer I have access to other grader opinions before I formulate my own, but I almost always choose to come up with my own grade first, then consider the other grades.

**5 Your first impression is usually right.** In most cases, within 10 seconds of picking up a coin I have an initial opinion. I'd say my final opinion matches my initial opinion 80% of the time. The initial opinion is the starting point in determining the final grade. If you grade too quickly, you can easily miss something. Spend too much time, and you'll out-think yourself into an incorrect grade. If this happens, I suggest you put the coin down, then return to it a minute or two later. You'll be amazed how easily the grade can come to you after doing this and how it can differ from your previous grade!

**6 Counterfeit U.S. gold coins never have copper spots.** Did I say never? Well, lets just say almost never. After viewing approximately 2,000,000 U.S. gold coins, I have seen thousands of fakes and exactly one that had a single copper spot.... It is simply an observation of mine that be could be of use to you in the future. Even though this is an authentication tip, not a grading tip, I decided to include it here anyway.

7 **Always grade the rims and the edges first.** I've been told that in the past Europeans would actually grade the entire coin based on the condition of the rims and edges (perhaps some still do). While I would never recommend this, I point it out because many modern day numismatists here in the US. have consciously or unconsciously opted to omit this part of the grading process completely. While rocking the coin and rotating it, examine the edges for damage to the reeding, corrosion evidence of mounting, etc. In order to detect rim filing or repair look at the way the light reflects off of the rims for areas that are uneven or have a different color or appearance. I always inspect rims and edges before going on to grade the rest of the coin, and I urge others who do not practice this to start making it a habit. Rim filing and rim repairs can be very deceptive and, unless the light hits the coin at exactly the right, angle, you will almost surely not see them. Sometimes rims are deliberately dulled or toned down to conceal problems, so be careful! Factor in various considerations.

**8** Eye appeal (or lack thereof) is a big consideration in arriving at a final grade. The problem here is that few can agree on what constitutes positive eye appeal, other than in the case of a magnificently toned or full blazing white coin. Some might even argue over those. At NGC, we do not believe it is a grading services job to screen out (omit) coins for certification solely on the basis of "negative eye appeal." That said, we believe an "ugly" but otherwise problem free coin should get what it deserves in the form of a lower grade. Coins with spectacular original toning are highly preserved, miniature works of art that in some cases should be rewarded with a higher grade. Likewise, a blazing white gem with 'pop' could be rewarded. We believe it is OK to reward a dipped (but not over-dipped) white coin, if the dipping was done properly. This is because very few blazing white coins have escaped dipping and because dipping is a common and generally accepted practice in the hobby and business. Next and equally important, remember to always ask yourself the question: "How is it made?" (or, "How do they come?"). I think most professionals would agree that one of the things to come out of the evolution of grading is acceptance that you simply cannot grade coins from different time periods and of different mints the same way, even though they may be the same coin type. If you submitted an 1896 "O" Morgan dollar that looked like an MS65 1903 "O", I'll bet you would be very disappointed if it came back in an MS65 holder! You would probably also expect an "O" mint $2.50 Liberty to be graded taldng the typical weak striking into consideration. Most choice AU Charlotte and Dahlonega gold might only be XF40 if compared to most choice AU "P" or "S" mint gold. So you can see that one simply cannot apply the same grading standard uniformly to all coins. ..I recommend first looking at the coin "hard", that is to closely scrutinize every aspect applying a precise viewing method consistently. At that point, you should have your "technical grade". Repeat the process without scrutinizing as intensely, perhaps even looking at the coin in a plastic flip to determine what the coin will look like in the holder without ultra close scrutiny or magnification. Now you are able to determine the "soft look" grade of the coin. The concluding step is to combine these two assessments to arrive at a final grade

**Editor:** The above article on grading was written for *NGC News & Views* by NGC Finalizer John Maben.

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# THE BIBLIOPHILE

By Ken Bressett

## *Chinese Cash. Identification and Price Guide.*

**By David Jen**

The title and cover of this new book are inviting. For any collector with even a passing interest in Chinese coins this is one work that you can't dismiss without wanting to know what is contained in its 352 pages, 3,000 years of history and nearly 2,000 illustrations. Spend a few hours with this book and you will not be disappointed. It delivers all that the cover promises.

Like all of the many other numismatic references from Krause Publications this latest book is well formatted, chock full of illustrations, contains reliable information and has up-to-date prices for each of the listed items. Its most useful attribute is that the text is in English rather than Chinese as are so many other books on this subject. It is refreshing to be able to follow this manual without constantly having to refer to a word-finder or dictionary. There is a caveat however. This is not a beginner's coverage of the subject.

Ken Bressett

Unlike most of the Krause publications this is one that is tailored for use by someone with more than a casual acquaintance with the subject. In that respect it is somewhat disappointing because we have come to expect Krause books to be encyclopedic and user-friendly in nature. If you are not yet familiar with using listings of Chinese coins in the Krause Standard Catalog of World Coins, you will have a difficult time understanding how things are organized in the Jen book.

This is a coverage of the copper coins of China that begins with ancient implements and pseudo-coins that were in use some 3,000 years ago. It continues through the ages up to the end of the period of cast coinage circa 1911. Included are those few struck pieces of the late Qing Dynasty that were machine made imitations of the older cast coinage. One of the most valuable parts of the listings is an explanation and tabulation of the "mother" coins; "seed" patterns, and trial pieces that are so coveted by collectors.

All of the important pieces are illustrated in this catalog by good quality rubbings. I found them easier to use than those in Ding Fubao's book, but not as clear as Schjoth's (sometimes inaccurate) drawings. In using this book as an identification reference it will be helpful to have all three books handy for confirmation of subtle varieties. I would strongly recommend that in almost any use of this book it is almost essential to have a copy of *Fisher's Ding* as a backup reference for confirmation of types and numbers.

The organization of material in Jen's book may also be found confusing unless carefully studied before attempting use the text. Coins are not listed in chronological order or even by dynasty. Instead they are spread around according to whether they are Major Issues, Varieties, or Trial Pieces. The coin listings are further complicated in that some are complete while others (particularly in the Qing Dynasty), lack even a basic listing of Mint variations. This is regrettable, as this is an area that would probably be of best help to the majority of beginning collectors.

One must also wonder why the titles and dates for each of the coins covered is not identified at the top of each page. Following the sequence with only the Chinese legends for reference will be cumbersome and difficult for most readers. The cross-reference numbering system is also awkward because both Schjoth and Fisher's Ding numbers are used; sometimes intermittently, sometimes together or not at all, but there is no concordance for easy reference to the Jen numbers.

Despite any shortcomings, the new Jen book has so much good information that it will be required reading for anyone who is interested in the cast coins of China. The indices alone are well worth the price of the book, and the dissertations on counterfeits and collecting habits are indispensable. If you are a beginner, this is not a stand-alone book, but used in conjunction with two or three other standard references it completes the picture and will add immensely to anyone's enjoyment of this rich and historic series of coins.

*Chinese Cash* by David Jen is available from the publisher, Krause Publications, 700 East State Street, Iola, WI 54990. The soft cover edition contains 352 pages and is printed on quality paper in an 8.5"x 11" format. Price when ordered from the publisher is $42.95 plus $3.25 for shipping. It is also available through many coin stores and book dealers.

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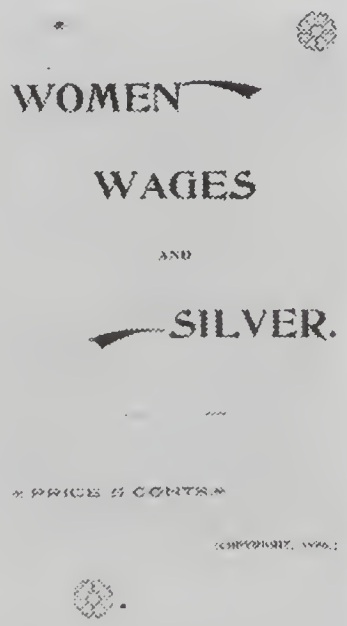


By Wm. Y. Perot

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1896. 8 pages.

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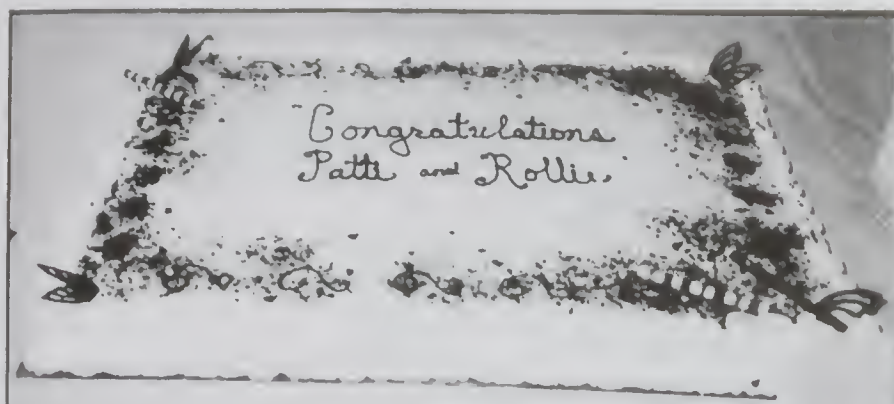

## Meet Mr. and Mrs Rollie Finner

CSNS was chosen by Patti Jagger & Rollie Finner to celebrate their recent wedding by holding a reception for dealers and friends on set-up night.

The reception was held at the Regal Hotel in a private room. The new bride was quite smashing in her white dress and the groom was handsome and jovial.

The Millers of Millers Mint Ltd. set a fun tone after we all oh'd and ah'd at the lovely cake, by presenting Patti with a hula skirt and a coconut shell bra. Rollie was crowned with a lei. The gifts weren't exactly a trip to Hawaii, but they led to a lot of laughter...and picture snaping.

Good natured fellowship was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Travel Tips...from Page 14

Since it closed in 1971, Eastern State has become a favorite of moviemakers impressed by the prison's high ceilings, echoing chambers and claustrophobic cells. Makers of "12 Monkeys" used the prison's central rotunda as the backdrop for 1998's "Return to Paradise," about a man who is held at a prison in Southeast Asia.

"It has the most imposing stone wall. When you think of a penitentiary with a stone wall and castellated exterior, this is the standard," says Sharon Pinkenson, executive director of the Greater Philadelphia Film Office. The prison also is a popular backdrop for music videos and commercials.

The most popular tour stop in the prison is Capone's former cell, which in the summer is decorated in the 1920s opulence that the famous gangster was accustomed to. He served eight months in Philadelphia m 1929 and 1930 on a weapons charge.

Though the prison is abandoned and crumbling, visitors say the building still is so foreign and historical that it cannot fail to amaze."

It is architecturally beautiful and built on a noble philosophy," says social science Professor Tony Wolf of Bucks County Community College. "I think it is so positive and uplifting to go there. It's a fabulous place."

**CHECK LIST**

**JUST ASK THEM:** The site is closed for the winter but reopens in May. For ticket and tour information, call (215) 236-3300.

**CLICK ON IT:** Check out a virtual tour of the prison at www.easternstate.com

**Editor Note:** If you happen to be in Philadelphia this summer this tour could easily be a 'new' historical highlight of your stay.

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## Numis Mania Answers

**Questions on page 22**

1) The "Confederate half dime"; "Jefferson Davis dime" and the "Beauragard dime."
2) Three to twelve times larger.
3) In effect demonetized silver and committed the United States to a gold standard.
4) Strike.
5) Roman.
6. Scoville's Button Factory
7. Hair above eye and ear. edges of cotton leaves and balls, high upper fold of cap.

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## Numis Mania Questions

1. Which three coins, sometimes classified as "Confederate coinage", were not struck for circulation or had any official status?
2. Approximately how much larger is the plastilene model than the finished coin?
3. The Coinage Law of 1873, referred to as the "Crime of '73, was considered by many to be a failure in several areas. What was its impact on the United States metalism standards?
4. The American Numismatic Association did not grade for one feature that most dealers considered necessary for valuation of a coin...ultimately leading to the formation of private grading services?
5. Coin collecting stretches back to what time 2000 years ago?
6. Where did Major Horatio N. Rust have copy dies made of the Fugio cent and then struck the so-called "New Haven restrikes" in gold, silver, copper, and brass?
7. Where are the high points on the obverse of the 1878-1921 Morgan dollar?

Answers on page 21

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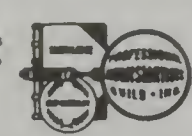
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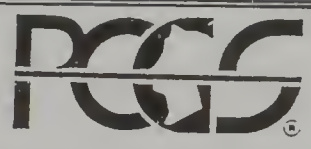


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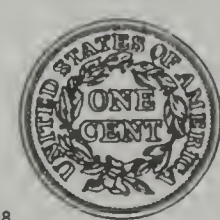

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